



Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA/EASTLEIGH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) expanded its key objectives to include a counter extremism component in and around the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh. Eastleigh has a large population of Somali immigrants with youths forming a large percentage of the population. Disenfranchisement of youth in the face of systemic marginalization, limited access to higher education, inadequate employment, crime, and corruption has weakened their resilience and increased their susceptibility to extremist ideologies. Coupled with the highly radicalized environment, youth in Eastleigh and its environs remain exposed to extremist ideologies and vulnerable to recruitment by groups such as Al-Shabaab.

To counter this threat, the KTI-Eastleigh project (KTI-E) seeks to build moderation and foster identity and self-confidence in at-risk youth to enable them to reject the recruitment efforts of extremist groups. To achieve this objective, KTI-E works with locally-based organizations and the Eastleigh community to respond to risk factors through a three pronged approach:

- Build capacity for moderation and non-violence
- Empower local youth
- Livelihood support for youth

GRANTS SUMMARY

Since the initiation of the KTI-E component in July 2011, KTI has funded **55** activities totaling **\$1,860,306**. A total of **15** activities worth **\$841, 977** were cleared during this reporting period.

Ongoing activities

Support to Local Government Outreach Forums: Surveys undertaken by KTI (CHXEAS005) and in stories gathered through the Sense Maker tool (CHXEAS015) show that community perception of the government in Eastleigh is characterized by mistrust and a sense of victimization. These perceptions, coupled with language barriers for Eastleigh's predominantly Somali residents, hinder the success of government initiatives of engaging effectively with the community to address pertinent issues that affect them. In Kenya, local administration officials such as the chief serve as the first point of contact between the local community and the government, providing linkages and entry points to deal with local community concerns. As part of creating a platform in which the community can air their grievances, the chiefs are mandated to hold local grassroots gatherings called "barazas" where local government authorities inform the community of new government regulations and laws, while at the same time listen to the challenges facing the community. However, despite the mechanism for interaction between the community and the government, many of the grassroots level meetings have poor attendance. In an effort to strengthen the ability of the Eastleigh barazas to engage residents, KTI provided support to the chief of Eastleigh North to help improve strategies for community mobilization and communicating logistical details – e.g. time and location – of the barazas in order to increase the level of community-government interaction.

With the growing insecurity in Eastleigh these interactive forums provide an opportune moment to educate the local community on issues pertaining to countering violent extremism, and act as a source of information to the government on community security concerns. KTI is helping promote a more favorable environment for positive community-government engagement via these better-attended public forums as a means to mitigate pull factors of radicalization, and attendance has already begun to improve. Despite KTI's first activity taking place over the traditionally slow Christmas holiday period, the first baraza since the activity began had over 200 participants.



Press coverage of KTI's activity with Kwani Trust.

Conversations with Writers and Artists from the Horn: Following the deployment of Kenyan troops to Somalia in October 2011, multiple terrorist attacks in the country have been attributed to Al-Shabaab and other extremist groups with ties to Somalia. This has led to a growing sense of xenophobia towards the Somali community as terrorism has become synonymous with the Somali ethnic population. To combat the growing hostility towards ethnic Somalis KTI partnered with [REDACTED] to host a one week series of public discussion forums, outreach sessions and youth discussions on xenophobia. [REDACTED] employed the use of art, culture and literature to pass on messages of tolerance. Participating artists helped counter misconceptions about the Somali community to the Kenyan youth at large, and helped disassociate terrorism from the Somali people. It also helped to contest the dominant political and media narrative of conflict and displacement usually associated with ethnic Somalis and presented an exciting opportunity for the youth to exchange and share information amongst themselves. The activity garnered a lot of attention¹ with the media, being cited as an influence helping to create a space for constructive social discourse, and as a contemporary illustration of how writing can positively engage and impact society.

Role Model and Attitude Change Using Video and Film: Eastleigh's large ethnic Somali community is comprised of Kenyan Somali as well as legal and illegal immigrants from war-torn Somalia. Despite the area being a major commercial hub, residents feel marginalized due to a dearth of infrastructure, social amenities and public services. Youth in particular are often torn between traditional, cultural and religious values, market forces and popular culture, struggling to define their identity. This identification crisis makes them vulnerable to influence and manipulation by extremist groups and criminal elements. To provide the youth in Eastleigh with role models they can look up to and who can provide examples of success and self-empowerment, KTI has partnered with [REDACTED] to carry out a role model and attitude change project. The activity will identify 15 role models within KTI's target area who will be the subjects of articles, photographs and short films produced by 30 [REDACTED] participants. The videos and articles will detail how the selected role models were able to achieve success despite coming from a disadvantaged background. The ensuing exposure to the examples of success by people who came from the same region and faced similar hardships is intended to inspire self-confidence and a positive sense of identity among Eastleigh youth, reducing the likelihood they are recruited to join extremist groups.

Pending activities

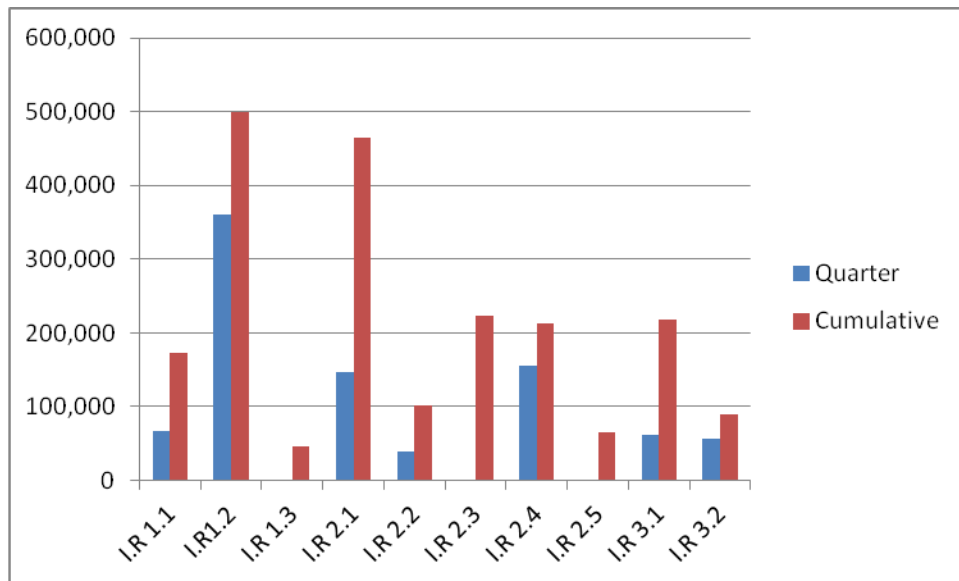
- **CHXEAS027-"Youth in Video and Photography Reporting": Grantee TBD.** This activity aims to capture the success of KTI-E activities. It will employ the use of video anecdotes of beneficiaries of KTI-E from both closed and ongoing activities. The grantee will be named once the bid and capacity analysis of three applicant media firms is completed.
- **CHXEAS055-"Screening of Broken Dreams": [REDACTED].** This activity intends to target youth and mothers with a screening of the documentary "Broken Dreams" in an attempt to dissuade them from participating in activities sponsored and supported by extremist groups.
- **CHXEAS060-"Women Promoting Tolerance": [REDACTED].** This activity aims to engage women as agents of tolerance in the community while using their sphere of influence at home with their sons and husbands to reject extremism and gang related activities.
- **CHXEAS061-"Illuminating Eastleigh for Security": Grantee TBD.** This activity seeks to put two street lights up in areas that have been plagued by crime. After the street lights have been set up, advocacy around security will be carried out through dialogues with opinion leaders in the community.

¹ Link to the Kwani Trust website highlighting the intricacies of the grant activities <http://litfest.kwani.org/>

- **CHXEAS062-“Enabling School Management Committees to Empower Youth II”:** [REDACTED]. This activity replicates the work carried out under CHXEAS014 and will train and sensitize school management committees as well as parents on peace and co-existence in an effort to empower them to take an active role convincing Eastleigh youth to shun extremism.
- **CHXEAS065-“Providing Linkages with Training and Financial Institutions”:** Grantee TBD. This activity will hold a banking fair to enable youth and women in the community to understand financial support available from local banks to support entrepreneurial endeavors.
- **CHXEAS071-“Training Community Leaders on Tolerance and Moderation”:** [REDACTED]. This activity will help support the Salaam Institute conduct an assessment in Nairobi, which will feed into the development of training curriculum that will be conducted with 30 participants, identified with the help of local partners, to improve their ability to promote moderation and tolerance.
- **CHXEAS073-“Bank Fair – Investing in Youth”:** [REDACTED]. This activity will comprise of a two-day bank fair which will include exhibitions by various financial and service sector institutions as well as discussion sessions on topics relevant to youth empowerment and entrepreneurship.
- **CHXEAS074-“Support Towards Assessing Impact of KTI Activities”:** [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] team is expected to develop discussion guides and other assessment tools for application during KTI-E activity implementation.

The bar graph below illustrates KTI-E expenditure on grants by Sub-Intermediate Result (I.R.) and themes by quarter and cumulatively.

EASTLEIGH ACTIVITIES BY THEME



IR 1.1: Enhanced Advocacy Capacity and Sustained Positive Dialogue with GOK
IR 1.2: Improved Communication Channels for Youth to Discuss Sensitive Topics
IR 1.3: Improve Capacity & Structure of Moderate Voices Including Women and Religious Leaders
IR 2.1: Increased Recreational and Cultural Activities to Foster Identity
IR 2.2: Leadership Development
IR 2.3: Youth Organizations Network
IR 2.4: Counseling and Mentoring
IR 2.5: Youth Empowerment Center
IR 3.1: Improved Vocational and Professional Skills
IR 3.2: Improved Attitude for Meritocratic Work

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The OTI Lessons Learned Team interviewed the Eastleigh PDOs in an effort to better understand KTI-E's programmatic focus, noting the operational procedures that have made the program effective. The team explored key elements of the program and process by which OTI engages in with the Mission and coordinates programming with other United States Government.

To help KTI-E enhance its monitoring and evaluation component, the project has engaged a Chemonics Home Office director with experience monitoring OTI project performance to further develop KTI-E's Project Monitoring Plan (PMP). The director [REDACTED], shared the initial draft of the PMP with OTI along with the scope of data and information required to measure the program over its lifespan. [REDACTED] is planning to visit the KTI field office in Nairobi in the next quarter to finalize the PMP in coordination with the KTI-E Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist.

PERSONNEL

[REDACTED], who previously worked with KTI's financial management team, joined the Eastleigh team as a grants manager; KTI-E also recruited an additional grants assistant to contribute to project grant management and close out. [REDACTED], a Project Development Officer (PDO) focused on IR 2 – Empowering Local Youth, left the project to pursue further studies; the position will be filled in the next quarter.

With the obligation of Partnership for Regional East Africa Counter-terrorism (PREACT) funding to the task order, the KTI-E team will begin to coordinate with the Coast team in order to collaborate and inform them on observed best practices for implementing CVE programming.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize PMP
- Recruit and hire a PDO
- Plan to schedule and hold KTI-E rolling assessment in the next quarter